



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016**

**COMMUNITY DESIGN STUDIO  
7506 E. INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

**PRESENT:** Joe Meli, Chair  
Todd Becker, Vice-Chair  
Jennifer Fabiano, Commissioner  
Michael Gonzalez, Commissioner  
Carol Miraldi, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** William Lichtsinn, Commissioner  
Kevin Walling, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Christy Hill, Staff Representative  
Bryan Cluff, Senior Planner

**GUEST:** Tanner Stechnij, ASU Student Reporter

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chairman Meli called the meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission to order at 5:00 p.m. A formal roll call was conducted confirming members present as stated above.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**1. Approve Draft Summary Meeting Minutes: April 19, 2016**

Commissioner Gonzalez provided a change, noting that Chair Meli called the meeting to order.

**COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2016 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER FABIANO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS LICHTSINN AND WALLING WERE ABSENT.**

**2. Open Call to the Public**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**3. Medical Marijuana Ordinance Update**

Bryan Cluff, Senior Planner stated that within the City of Scottsdale, medical marijuana uses are allowed in certain zoning districts, subject to a conditional use permit. It is only allowed in the I-1, C-O and S-C zoning districts. Previously, protected uses meant that medical marijuana facilities were required to be 500 feet away from schools and residential. There was also a separation requirement between medical marijuana uses themselves, which was set at one-quarter mile.

The State regulates licensing for medical marijuana facilities. When originally approved, the Arizona Department of Health Services began to implement the program in 2002. Locations of licenses were based on Community Health Analysis Areas (CHAAs). Licenses were limited to one per CHAA area. There are seven CHAAs in the City of Scottsdale that overlap the City, however the vast majority of the City is covered under CHAAs, including Northern Scottsdale and Southern Scottsdale. The State regulations subsequently changed to allow medical marijuana uses to relocate after they have been in operation for three or more years. This began to occur in 2015. Two facilities originally appeared in Scottsdale in the north CHAA and one in the south. Subsequently, three were relocated in the north CHAA in 2015. These three licenses piqued the City Council's interest in terms of tightening regulations on medical marijuana facilities.

At its May 17th meeting, City Council initiated a text amendment with direction to staff to increase the required separation between medical marijuana facilities, increase the required separation between protected uses and also to add three new protected uses, including churches, public parks and daycare centers. Staff prepared a text amendment for review by the City Council. The separation requirement between facilities and residential/schools increased from 500 feet to 1,500. The church, public park and daycare center uses are protected with the same 1,500 feet buffer. The separation requirement between medical marijuana uses increased from one-quarter mile to one-half mile.

Vice-Chair Becker asked what happens if a daycare center opens next door to an existing medical marijuana facility. Mr. Cluff stated that the existing facility would be grandfathered into the location and would be allowed to remain, as long as they complied with all existing requirements.

Mr. Cluff was excused. Commissioner Gonzalez asked about the requirements for notifying residents about approved medical marijuana facilities. Christy Hill, Staff Representative replied that she would research the inquiry and provide a response.

#### **4. 2016 McDowell Corridor Spirit Awards Review**

Ms. Hill noted that Commissioner Gonzalez and Chair Meli gave the presentation to the City Council in early June. Chair Meli stated that the focus has been on the McDowell Corridor from Osborn Road south to the City's limits. Nominees were chosen by use of plants, texture, color, neighborhood context, marked improvements and overall appearance.

Winners included:

- Business: Fate Brewing
- Single family residence: 8124 East Granada Road
- Multifamily Condominiums: Scottsdale Gardens Condominiums

During the City Council meeting there was representation from all winners. Chair Meli stated that as a consequence of growing interest in the awards, the Commission might wish to discuss several options, including expanding the number of awards. Ms. Hill added that staff used many marketing tools available to the City to get the word out to neighborhoods. However, there was disappointment in the level of involvement.

Outreach efforts included:

- Channel 11
- Public information outreach to marketing groups
- PSAs
- Neighborhood notification program
- Next Door
- City web page
- Featured news

There were a total of 21 nominations. Ms. Hill stated that she contacted the City's public information personnel, who indicated that they have instituted the water bill insert, which provides community information on a bimonthly basis. Upcoming Spirit Awards information can be submitted for inclusion. It is important to find an unusual news angle that will motivate newspapers to cover the Spirit Awards more widely. The Spirit Awards have now been done twice in the McDowell Corridor. With the possibility of saturation in this area, it may be time to move into a different neighborhood.

Chair Meli said that it had been previously discussed that the Commission appear before City Council as an agenda item to remind people regarding the event or to use the appearance as a kick-off announcement. Winners from previous years could also be memorialized and given the opportunity to say how

the award has affected them. An additional possibility would be to have the media visit Fate Brewing to cover the winner and to preview the upcoming Award season. Ms. Hill added that each Commissioner could be responsible for some level of outreach. Chair Meli suggested the possibility of expanding the categories. Commissioner Miraldi suggested hosting a table at one of the City's festivals to provide information to attendees. Ms. Hill commented timing of the festivals would be key. She noted the importance of placing a discussion on this issue on the January agenda.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that it is difficult to locate specific information on the City website and that a prominent button link to the Spirit Awards would be helpful.

Vice-Chair Becker suggested that if the categories are expanded to a total of five, that there be consideration for the possibility of a grand prize winner.

There was discussion regarding the categories of expansion. Suggestions included:

- Dividing business into small and large
- Multifamily developments categorized by number of units
- Desert versus traditional landscaping
- Commercial footprint, such as a mall
- Mixed use buildings
- Best use of sustainable materials
- Most energy efficient

Chair Meli commented that it makes sense to start at the south end of McDowell all the way to Shea. Ms. Hill noted that the General Plan breaks out neighborhoods by additional category and that it might be worth reviewing this information to expand prize classifications.

Commissioner Miraldi suggested contacting Scottsdale Magazine to publish the winners in an upcoming edition and perhaps an article at the kick-off of the campaign.

## **5. Commission Updates, Comments, Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Hill stated that senior staff in Planning and Neighborhood Services are very committed to developing the Neighborhood Advisory Commission this year, including putting them in the position to be the most knowledgeable resource regarding neighborhoods. To accomplish this, education and awareness will be part of the agenda moving forward, including this evening's presentation on medical marijuana. It is intended that every meeting will feature a speaker on a neighborhood topic.

The City website includes flood map changes for the flood zones in Scottsdale, which means that some residents will now be required to carry flood insurance on their homes. Others will be able to reduce their premiums.

Time News listed Scottsdale among the top 50 best places to live. The accompanying article lists 60 key factors considered, including taxes, education, healthcare and quality of life.

The Department just held its G.A.I.N. Night 2016 kickoff, which included participation by leaders of block watches in the City, speakers and sharing of information. The community event will be held on October 29th. It is a neighborhood celebration, encouraging residents to interact with one another.

Suggested upcoming Commission agenda items include:

October:

- Information and speaker on short-term rentals, rules, ordinances, impacts, City role
- Structured sober living group homes text amendment, City role, protections for such programs
- Spirit Awards
- IT staff presentation on website
- Possibility of conducting a remote meeting to attract participation and attention

November:

- Southern Scottsdale Character Area Plan implementation and program overview
- McDowell Road Corridor update

December:

- Draft general plan for 2017

Commissioner Gonzalez asked about the status of the Bell Road Study. Ms. Hill undertook to look into this and provide the information. Commissioner Gonzalez suggested included updates on all three major studies for the November meeting.

Commissioner Fabiano commented that Cox is tearing up roads to install Gigablast lines. Subsequent repair work to the roads by Cox looks terrible. She asked where complaints on this issue should be directed. Ms. Hill said that it could be brought to Neighborhood Services for follow up by staff.

There was discussion regarding upcoming meeting dates. The two upcoming tentative dates are October 26th and November 15th. There was consensus for the December meeting to be held December 13th, prior to the holidays.

Commissioner Miraldi introduced herself, as did the remaining Commission members.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

***Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC***